

Special Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 7:30pm
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein, Selectman David Muller, Town Administrator Tom Landry, Administrative Assistant Randi Derene, EMS President Jon Weingarten, Weston Residents. Selectman Dennis Tracey was not present.

This meeting was recorded and videotaped. Copies are available in the Selectman's office. The meetings are available for viewing online via the Town's website.

Ms. Weinstein called the meeting to order at: 7:32pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Ms. Weinstein led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Pam Kersey to fill the vacancy on the Library Board for a term to end October 31, 2018 -

Ms. Kersey is excited at the prospect of being part of the library board. It will be an interesting and busy time of change for the library. Weston's library has a different role in the community since 17 years ago when she first moved to Weston. Professionally, she has worked at JP Morgan Chase for over 20 years, where she was the CFO of corporate marketing communications. Ms. Kersey was mostly responsible for strategic planning and space planning, which is relevant to the changes coming to our library. Locally, she is President of the Women's Club, Co-Chair of an Outreach Committee at church and also very involved in the Kiwanis Club. Ms. Kersey loves books and has authors in her family. The library was like a community center when she was growing up, so it was an important part of her youth. Ms. Weinstein asks Ms. Kersey if she feels she will have enough time to commit to the board in addition to all the other things she is involved with. Ms. Kersey confirmed yes.

Mr. Muller moves that the Board appoint Pam Kersey to fill a vacancy on the Library Board for a term to expire October 31, 2018. Ms. Weinstein seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion/decision regarding signage for the Lachat Farmhouse – Diane Renaud, Lachat Committee

Ms. Renaud presented several different sign designs. The sign will be slightly taller than the Bisceglie sign. Ms. Weinstein asked where the sign will be located. Ms. Renaud replied that it will be placed to the right of the driveway, between 2 trees. Ms. Renaud presented a mockup of the design and placement, along with some antique hardware that will be used to bolt the sign to posts.

Ms. Weinstein is glad we are at this point. It was part of the original deed that we were supposed to honor 12 years ago. We don't need a motion for this as we are able to take the money out of Lachat Endowment fund.

Discussion/decision regarding Phase 2 of the Lachat Property – Ellen McCormick, Lachat Committee

Ms. McCormick presented the plans for phase 2 of the Lachat Farm. Ms. Weinstein reviewed where we are now. We have the community gardens up and running. We will be finishing the roof, and are waiting on prices for heating. We are not sure how much money Friends of Lachat

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has left to start additional renovations. Ms. Weinstein asked Ms. McCormick what comes next and to clarify what "farming on the property" meant? Ms. Weinstein thought we had only approved using field on the left side of the barn? The Commission thought they would farm the entire property. Ms. Weinstein said we need to figure out what the community wants. But Ms. McCormick feels they will wait to turn over the land till they have a farmer. So they will wait until the spring before doing anything.

In terms of what is being thought of for other field, they are just looking right now at the flatter sections. In the area where there are small hills, maybe pumpkins would be planted. Use land behind the house, in front of the barns. Ms. Weinstein thinks we need to keep the field the way it is for now. People are used to seeing beautiful open space when driving by the farm, and we don't want to change that.

Ms. McCormick said the farm to table dinner was fabulous. She is seeing other great events at the farm. Ms. Weinstein wants to thank the commission. They are doing a wonderful job, and it is such a service for community. Ms. Weinstein wants to discuss further plans with Mr. Tracey, who was not able to attend this meeting.

Ms. McCormick stated that what they do need to finalize for the grants is the irrigation system. It will be fairly simple, and not very expensive. Fencing is also in their grant, but they need to finalize where they will be doing their planting first. Ms. Weinstein stated that she wants to make sure that the vista remains inviting.

Ms. McCormick has prepared a list of all the things that they need in place to function (like an equipment list).

Discussion/decision regarding space needs for Weston EMS – Jon Weingarten

Mr. Weingarten is here to discuss space needs for EMS. They currently have a desk and file cabinets in the FD office, in addition to ambulance bays and two closets downstairs. EMS today is equivalent to running a medium size business. The scope of EMS is changing. Recruiting is getting more difficult. State regulations are changing. EMS believes that over the next five years procedures will need to change as the state continues to try and to reduce response time. Eventually, crews will need to sleep at the headquarters (firehouse) and we have no facilities for that. During hurricanes and snowstorms EMT's have slept at the firehouse in sleeping bags and cots. All other towns have sleeping facilities for crews. Mr. Weingarten also states that EMS needs more office space as well as more help with administrative functions. EMS supports the town's plan to keep all emergency services together on the same campus. They looked at what would be most cost effective for the town and the EMS Dept. and have determined that building over the flat roof above ambulance bays makes the most sense. It would be an ideal location as they would still have access into the Fire Dept. including access to the meeting room, kitchen and bathrooms. At this point, they don't know if floor is structurally strong enough. As per Gayle's recommendation, he contacted Brian Humes (architect) to do an analysis. Cost would be approximately \$2500 for structural analysis and included \$1500 for construction cost estimate. Ms. W then explained that what the town is trying to do is to build a

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public safety complex. EMS is planning on paying for the actual construction. Town will incur operating costs once it is up and running, since it will be on town property. Ms. Weinstein feels the town should also pay for the engineering study and space needs so they can move this project along. Ms. Weinstein says we don't need an appropriation for this because there is money left over from the space needs capital from two years ago that we can take the money from. Mr. Muller moves that the board authorized the First Selectman to enter into a new contract with Jacunski Humes Architects to perform a structural engineering analysis and cost assessment to determine if an addition can be added to the second floor of the Fire Department building for Weston EMS use. Ms. Weinstein seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion/decision regarding a change in benefits for the Town Administrator

Ms. Weinstein sent letter to the Selectmen regarding what changes are being proposed to Mr. Landry's benefits.

First is the car allowance. Currently our Town Administrator has the use of our town vehicle that is fueled and serviced by the Town of Weston. The Town would like to get away from that. Ms. Weinstein is proposing in place of using a town vehicle, to pay Mr. Landry a car allowance of \$4800 /year.

Second is regarding his plan to retire in 2 years. Ms. Weinstein wants to make sure that he stays through budget season that year as we may also have a new First Selectman at that time. In addition, the next two years will be a busy time for the Town Administrator. Between all the planning for the new building and potential employee changes, Ms. Weinstein wants to make sure Mr. Landry is here to help. They have agreed to change his vacation policy to 3 weeks instead of 5 and the Town would pay him for the additional two weeks. Mr. Landry is also willing to give up the 30 day carry over benefits, and will only carry over 5 after this year. Mr. Landry confirmed that these changes are mutually agreeable.

Mr. Muller moves that the Board accepts the proposed changes and benefits for the Town Administrator as outlined in the letter attached and circulated. Ms. Weinstein seconds. Motion carried.

Discussion/decision on postponing the public hearing on the Fire Arms Ordinance

This public hearing was originally scheduled for Thursday, November 6th. We are not having that BOS meeting as we are having a joint BOS/BOF meeting on Tuesday, November 4th. Mr. Muller moves that the Board postpones the public hearing currently scheduled for November 6th on the firearms ordinance to a date to be determined. Ms. Weinstein seconds. Motion carried.

Property Tax Refunds:

Green Tree c/o Corelogic	\$7,110.83
Edward Subotich	\$229.42
Chase Auto Finance Corp	\$93.96
Honda Financial Services	\$151.59

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Mercedes-Benz Financial	
Services	\$592.75
Porsche Leasing Company LTD	\$165.63
Toyota Financial Services	<u>\$581.74</u>

TOTAL: \$8,925.92

The Board agrees to take out the request for David Muller's property tax refund as Mr. Tracy is not in attendance to approve. It was approved to move Mr. Muller's property tax refund request to the next BOS meeting.

Mr. Muller moves that the board authorizes the property tax refunds in the amount of \$8925.92 as listed on the October 22nd agenda, with the exception of David Muller's request. Ms. Weinstein seconded. Motion carried.

Open Item

First Selectman's Update

We received a \$5000 Bright Ideas Grant to be used for new air conditioning unit at the Transfer Station. It is a much more efficient system.

Mr. Landry informed us that we received a \$2500 grant from Cable TV Operations. The money will offset the operating costs of televising these meetings.

Approval of the minutes of the Board of Selectman's meeting of September 30, 2014.

Mr. Muller moves that the Board approves the minutes from the September 30th Board of Selectmen's meeting. Ms. Weinstein seconds. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned: 8:11pm

Respectfully submitted,
Randi Derene
Administrative Assistant

Approved: December 15, 2014